

CLAIMS

1. An oral dosage form containing as an active principle an omega-3 polyunsaturated acid in free acid form or as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, characterized in that it releases the acid in the ileum.

2. An oral dosage form as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the omega-3 polyunsaturated acid is released in the mid-ileum.

3. An oral dosage form as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein release of the omega-3 polyunsaturated acid is controlled by an exterior coating on a capsule containing the said active principle.

4. An oral dosage form as claimed in Claim 3, wherein delay in dissolution of the coating is time-dependant but not pH dependent.

5. An oral dosage form as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the coating is resistant for a period of 30 to 60 minutes at pH 5.5.

6. An oral dosage form as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the coating is a neutral polyacrylate.

7. An oral dosage form as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the coating is a poly(ethylacrylate-methylmethacrylate).

8. An oral dosage form as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said acid is DHA, EPA or a mixture thereof.

9. An oral dosage form as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said acid is present as the sole active principle.

10. The use of an omega-3 polyunsaturated acid in free acid form or as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament releasing the acid in the ileum for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.

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11. A use as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the medicament is an oral dosage form as defined in any one of Claims 2 to 9.

10 12. The use of an oral dosage form as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 9 in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.]

15 13. A method of treating inflammatory bowel disease, which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of an oral dosage form as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 9.

add 9.3>